

Reference: 20140265

28 January 2015



Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 31 October 2014. You requested the following:

“... all briefing papers within the Ministry and with the Minister's office, transcripts of telephone conversations and reports into the Housing warrant of fitness programme that is being proposed.”

Following discussion with a Treasury official, you agreed to redefine your request as:

- *“Any advice that Treasury has provided to the Minister's office on introducing a housing warrant of fitness programme (where this is referring to a warrant of fitness on social housing properties and the costs to the Government of bringing these properties up to standard)*
- *Reports or briefings held by the Treasury on the above issue”.*

As previously communicated to you, we extended the time limit for deciding on your request by an additional 30 working days and subsequently transferred the second bullet of the request to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Our response covers the first bullet.

As discussed with you, we are defining the starting point for your request to be January 2013, as it was in 2013 that the Government first announced a trial warrant of fitness programme on Housing New Zealand properties.

Information Being Released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	25 November 2013	Pre-cab briefing: trial of rental warrant of fitness with Housing NZ Corp	Release relevant information
2.	2 December 2013	Pre-cab briefing: trial of rental warrant of fitness with Housing NZ Corp	Release relevant parts

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under the following section of the Official Information Act: advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Information Publicly Available

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury and Beehive websites:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	28 February 2013	Budget 2013 Vote Housing Update	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/informationreleases/budget/2013/other-e-h
2.	16 May 2013	Press Release: Housing WoF to be developed and trialled	http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/housing-wof-be-developed-and-trialled

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

This letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This fully covers the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Tom Hall
Manager, Housing

Information Being Released

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IN-CONFIDENCE

PRE-CAB BRIEFING – 22 NOVEMBER 2013

Not relevant to request



Papers for Cabinet Consideration

Item	Title		
Description and analysis		Fiscal implications	Treasury recommendation

Not relevant to request



Page 2 not relevant to request

IN-CONFIDENCE

Not relevant to request



15	Trial of a Housing Warrant of Fitness with Housing New Zealand Corporation
This paper informs Cabinet that Housing New Zealand Corporation will trial a Warrant of Fitness on its properties, and proposes that officials will report back to Cabinet with the initial trial results by September 2014.	- Do not support until the paper is amended to outline the costs and risks of introducing a star-rated Warrant of Fitness and explains how these costs and risks will be managed.

Page 4 not relevant to request

IN-CONFIDENCE

PRE-CAB BRIEFING – 2 DECEMBER 2013

Not relevant to request

Papers for Cabinet Consideration

Item	Title		
Description and analysis	Fiscal implications	Treasury recommendation	
<i>Not relevant to request</i>			

IN-CONFIDENCE

Not relevant to request



9	Trial of a Housing Warrant of Fitness with Housing Corporation New Zealand	
<p>This paper informs Cabinet that Housing New Zealand Corporation will trial two options for a Warrant of Fitness (WoF) on its properties (a pass/fail and a five star rating system). Officials will report back to Cabinet by August 2014 on the rating systems for a WoF</p> <p><i>Withheld under s9(2)(f)(iv)</i></p>	-	Support

Page 3 not relevant to request